

# Foreign Corporations and the Long Arm of the Law

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Can foreign corporations avoid the long arm of the law? A recent order in a Massachusetts declaratory judgment patent case suggests that the answer may be, “sometimes.” The case began when Venmill Industries, Inc. filed a complaint in Massachusetts federal court seeking a declaratory judgment of non-infringement of U.S. Patent No. 8,342,905, titled, “Optical Disk Restoration Method and Apparatus.” Venmill, a Massachusetts corporation that develops and manufactures disk repair and maintenance products, sought the declaratory judgment after receiving a “cease-and-desist” letter from ELM – a privately held company incorporated in Japan...